



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/507,485	02/10/2000	Craig Henry Becker	TU-99-061/IBMT-023	7558
33595	7590	07/29/2003		
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION 9000 SOUTH RITA ROAD TUCSON, AZ 85744			EXAMINER	
			STONE, JONATHAN D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2178	
DATE MAILED: 07/29/2003				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/507,485	BECKER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Jonathan D Stone	2178
<i>-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --</i>		
<b>Period for Reply</b>		
<b>A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.</li> <li>- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.</li> <li>- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.</li> <li>- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).</li> <li>- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).</li> </ul>		
<b>Status</b>		
1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>10 February 2000</u> .		
2a) <input type="checkbox"/> This action is FINAL.                    2b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This action is non-final.		
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> , 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.		
<b>Disposition of Claims</b>		
4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-24</u> is/are pending in the application.		
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.		
5) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.		
6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-24</u> is/are rejected.		
7) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.		
8) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.		
<b>Application Papers</b>		
9) <input type="checkbox"/> The specification is objected to by the Examiner.		
10) <input type="checkbox"/> The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) <input type="checkbox"/> accepted or b) <input type="checkbox"/> objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).		
11) <input type="checkbox"/> The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) <input type="checkbox"/> approved b) <input type="checkbox"/> disapproved by the Examiner. If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.		
12) <input type="checkbox"/> The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.		
<b>Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120</b>		
13) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) <input type="checkbox"/> All    b) <input type="checkbox"/> Some * c) <input type="checkbox"/> None of: 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____. 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.		
14) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application). a) <input type="checkbox"/> The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.		
15) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.		
<b>Attachment(s)</b>		
1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)		
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)		
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>2</u>		
4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____		
5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)		
6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____		

## **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This action is responsive to communications: Application filed on 2/10/00.
2. IDS filed on 2/10/00 (paper 2).
3. Claims 1-24 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 10-12, 21-24 are independent claims.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

***Claims 1-7, 9-18, 20-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cohen et al (herein Cohen; USPN 6377983 – filing date 11/13/1998) in view of Logan et al (herein Logan; USPN 5761683 – filing date 2/13/1996).***

5. Regarding independent claims 1, 10-12, 21-24, Cohen teaches recording characteristics of underlying data when that data is accessed by corresponding linked documents (col 3, ln 16-25). Although Cohen does not explicitly teach storing said characteristic data in a database, the use of databases in such data storage embodiments was known and typical in the art at the time of the invention. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to store such information in an organized manner in a database. This would have facilitated faster data recovery.

Cohen teaches receiving information to determine if a previous user in a predefined access group has previously selected a hyperlink (col 4, ln 3-15). Cohen also teaches presenting information to users about hyperlinks followed by access groups only if those groups previously accessed said hyperlinks (col 3, ln 26-47 and col 4, ln 3-15). Cohen does not explicitly teach presenting information representing characteristics of the data. However, Logan teaches modifying the presentation of a document to represent characteristics of the document (col 2, ln 1-52). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Cohen and Logan in order to give the user a modified presentation based on the characteristics of document. This would have provided better navigation guidance to a user by enabling the invention to highlight documents trails.

Additionally, Cohen does not explicitly teach a cursor proximate to a hyperlink as a method of input. However, it was known and typical in the art at the time of the invention for web pages and other software to output text and annotations in the form of popup bubbles, as in help environments or for more detailed information regarding underlying data (reference applicant's admitted prior art, JP11039310). In such embodiments the page is presented free from any enhancements without a proper user input. When a cursor is placed proximate to the hyperlink, the hyperlink is analyzed and the appropriate presentation modification is displayed. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to activate Cohen's invention upon a cursor being placed proximate to a hyperlink. This would have eased the workload of a user by reducing the number of clicks with a mouse a user had to perform to view additional information.

Regarding claims 22 and 23, Cohen teaches the implementation of his invention in a networking environment in which a number of users can take advantage of information regarding links previously visited by a plurality of users (col 4, ln 3-15 and col 4, ln 66 – col 5, ln 27).

6. **Regarding dependent claims 2, 13,** Cohen does not explicitly teach presenting enhancements including text and graphics, as well as sound and tactile output. However, Logan does teach presenting enhancements including displaying text and graphics (col 2, ln 18-52). Although Logan does not explicitly teach the output of generating sound and providing tactile output, such forms of web page output were known and typical in the art at the time of the invention. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Cohen and Logan and to include various types of output. This would have enabled users with disabilities to access the data.

7. **Regarding dependent claims 3, 14,** Cohen does not explicitly teach choosing from a set of databases prior to analyzing the hyperlink. However, Cohen does teach choosing from a set of access groups (col 4, ln 3-15). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Cohen in order to have a related database associated with each access group be selected along with the related access group. This modification would have provided better navigation guidance to a user.

8. **Regarding dependent claims 4, 15,** Cohen teaches a user selecting types of characteristics of interest to the user, wherein the presenting operation is then limited to those characteristics (col 11, ln 43 – col 12, ln 21).

9. **Regarding dependent claims 5, 16,** Cohen does not explicitly teach user input including depressing a mouse button. However, Logan teaches a presentation modification that inserts an extra web page in between the originating web page and the underlying data such that a mouse click may be required to navigate to the enhancement, and then proceed to the underlying data (col 2, ln 18-32). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Cohen and Logan. The combination of Logan and Cohen would have provided better navigation guidance to a user, allowing common input such as a mouse click.

10. **Regarding dependent claims 6-7, 17-18,** Cohen teaches an access group having one user (col 3, ln 1-15) and multiple users (col 4, ln 3-15).

11. **Regarding dependent claims 9, 20,** Cohen teaches a number of data characteristics being saved, including if the page was arrived at via selection of a stored bookmark (indicating the user has bookmarked the underlying data; col 3, ln 25-46).

***Claims 8, 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cohen in view of Logan and in further view of Fogg et al (herein Fogg; USPN 6163778 – filing date 2/6/1998).***

12. **Regarding dependent claims 8, 19,** Cohen and Logan do not explicitly teach soliciting a user specification of a user rating or representative multimedia symbols and recording the response in a database. However, Fogg does teach acquiring rating information based on a user's attempted access of a hyperlink or page and further storing the rating in a database (col 1, ln 51 – col 2, ln 10 and Fig. 7). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Fogg with Cohen and Logan. Such a combination would have provided a user with better navigation assistance by pointing a user in the right direction.

13. Prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to disclosure.

US-6,557,015                  to:        Bates et al.  
US-6,411,996                  to:        Albers, Michael C.

### ***Conclusion***

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan D Stone whose telephone number is (703) 305-7854. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather R Herndon can be reached on (703) 308-5186. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for regular communications and (703) 746-7238 for After Final communications. Responses to this action may be mailed to:

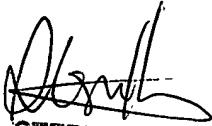
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to:

Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive  
Arlington, VA, Fourth Floor (receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

JDS  
July 15, 2003



STEPHEN S. HONG  
PRIMARY EXAMINER